

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- A. Applicant Name: Powell County Weed District
- B. Mailing Address: 409 Missouri Ave.
- C. City: Deer Lodge State: MT Zip: 59722
- Telephone: 406-846-3348
- D. Contact Person: Karen L. Laitala, Coordinator
- Address if different from Applicant:
- City: State: Zip:
- Telephone:
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name
(if other than Applicant):
- Mailing Address:
- City: State: Zip:
- Telephone:

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

- A. Project Name: Blackfoot River Corridor Noxious Weed Management Project
- River, stream, or lake: Blackfoot River
- Location: Township T 15N Range R 13W Section 33
- County: Powell
- B. Purpose of Project:
- To prevent, contain and/or eradicate noxious weed infestations and consequent seed production on a 28.5 mile section of the Blackfoot River corridor using a commercial applicator to treat from the water's edge to the high water mark (and/or approximately 5 acres per mile) and the associated riparian and upland area. Noxious weed control in this area will have a long term beneficial impact on the terrestrial habitat adjacent to the river. An overall increase in native and desirable vegetation presence and biological diversity among plant communities will enhance survival and productivity of wild fish and associated fish wildlife and species.

C. Brief Project Description:

The Blackfoot River Corridor Cooperative Vegetation Management Area is located along 40 miles of river frontage in Powell and Missoula counties between Corrik Campground and River Junction Fishing Access. A commercial applicator will be contracted to treat noxious weeds by boat or raft either with backpack spot treatment or boat mounted tank and hand line, or a combination of both. As access is limited and difficult, the project is labor intensive. In very limited situations, some application via ATV, UTV, or roadside spray trucks may possibly be utilized where possible and practical.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: 142.5 acres adjacent to 28.5 river miles

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 11,400.00

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$ 2,280.00
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ 11,400.00 In-kind \$
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ 25,080.00

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?

Wild trout, in particular Westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*) and bull trout (*Salveninus confluentus*), are the critical fish species expected to benefit from this project. All fish species present within the river should benefit directly or indirectly from the reduction and/or removal of noxious weed species and the regeneration of biologically diverse native and desirable vegetation.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?

Noxious weeds have a negative impact on historic and naturally biologically diverse plant communities associated with the Blackfoot River riparian and adjacent upland terrestrial habitat. Long-term conservation outcomes of this project include overall natural resource enhancement, conservation, and protection of the riparian plant community and associated wildlife and fisheries through cooperative, adaptive, and coordinated management for desirable vegetation on the Blackfoot River. Restoration of vegetative and therefore macro-invertebrate communities that have co-evolved with native fish populations enhance and preserve channel and stream stability, reduce unnatural erosion and sediment deposition, and contribute to the preservation of overall health, vigor and reproductive vitality of wild fish populations of the river system.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Improvement to the fish population survival and reproduction as well as fishing will be important and significant. Reduction of the impacts of noxious weeds on fisheries is intrinsic as well as biological. Improvements include a decrease in spread of noxious weeds at fishing access sites as well as riverbanks. Boat launching and associated activities not only increase the spread of noxious weeds and weed seeds in the immediate area and downriver, but seeds are also spread on vehicle and trailer tires, recreational vehicle tires, and even fishing equipment. Weed seeds are known to adhere to waders, boots, shoes, socks, pant legs and other articles of clothing. Pets that often accompany humans fishing and recreating along the river also transport weed seeds. Reduction of weed populations will greatly reduce weed and weed seed spread within the project area as well as to other fishing sites. In addition, most noxious weeds physically and visually negatively impact fishing experiences. Reduction of weed populations and restoration of native and desirable vegetation would greatly improve anglers' enjoyment of the environment and would potentially increase success rates and therefore enjoyment when fish populations increase.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

By preserving, restoring, and improving the terrestrial environment associated with the river corridor of the project area, increased public use will occur due to a more historic natural vegetation and wild fish habitat. An upsurge of denser and healthier wild fish populations and decreased potential threat of noxious weed infestation and spread within that environment and others will attract more anglers to the area.

E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

The project will require a long term commitment on the part of the Powell County Weed Board and cooperators on the project to manage and seek funding for noxious weed control and monitoring for a minimum of 4 years.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Past land use practices have resulted in disturbance which has allowed for widespread and dense noxious weed infestations to become established along the river corridor. Effective management of noxious weed populations will prevent further evolution of riparian plant communities into monocultures of noxious weeds and increase re-establish of biologically diverse native plant communities.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?

Public benefits include the enhanced enjoyment of floating, river craft fishing, bank fishing and all forms of recreation and day to day life enjoyed by the general public as well as landowners that live along and recreate on and adjacent to the Blackfoot River.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

The project will not interfere with landowner water rights, and will involve cooperation on the part of landowners within the project area. All private landowners and land managers, as well as state and federal landowners within the project area have committed to the project.

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No, the project will not have a direct impact on any proposed commercial recreational use development projects.

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No, this project is not associated with mine reclamation activity.

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature: /s/ Karen Laitala, Coordinator

Date: 6/1/2012

Sponsor (if applicable): Powell County weed District

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

Mail To: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.

Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****

